



MAY 10 1937

RECEIVED

NUMBER 5

### European Goldfinches

On March 30, 1937, Mrs. Kelly with her class in Elk Valley, Marin County, California, observed several European Goldfinches in company with Lark Sparrows, Western Bluebirds and Juncos feeding in an open field.

Mrs. Mary L. Courtright, of Larkspur, Marin County, who was with Mrs. Kelly's group, stated that last fall a small flock of these finches was in her garden feeding upon the seeds of the scabiosa, but she did not inquire sufficiently to determine their identification.

Thinking that these might be escaped birds and that possibly Mr. E. C. Kinsey, aviculturist, of Manor, Marin County, might know something about them, the writer informed him of the observation. He did not, however, have any knowledge of their presence, but on April 4 he and his young son visited the location where they had been seen and found twelve of them, seven in one group and five in another.

Mr. Roger Tory Peterson in his book, "A Field Guide to the Birds," gives the following description: slightly larger than the common goldfinch, cinnamon brown with a bright red patch about the base of the bill and a broad yellow band crossing the wing. Sexes similar.

This species was introduced into the United States and naturalized to the extent of breeding sometimes, as in New York City and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In the absence of any authentic information regarding the presence of this species in Marin County, we are inclined to believe that they are some escaped birds and possibly their offspring.

Laura A. Stephens, San Francisco, California. April 8, 1937.



### April Field Trip

The regular April field trip was held on Sunday, the eleventh, at Lake Merced. The weather was perfect, which, coupled with the prospects of Gallinules, brought out a goodly number of birding enthusiasts.

The start was made from Fleishhacker playground at 9:45 a. m., and the party proceeded to encircle the larger lake after a brief, but profitable, stop at the smaller one. The birds were out en masse and many splendid opportunities to observe some unusual things were offered us. Myrtle Warblers in full plumage and song consorting with equally brilliant Townsend Warblers were the first big find of the day and from there on surprises came thick and fast. A Tule Wren lining its nest, followed in short order by two beautiful male Red-breasted Mergansers, a Herring Gull, and a wonderfully obliging Bittern, kept us on our toes while at the small lake.

Moving southward along the east side of the south lake, we derived much enjoyment from the wild flowers, which are especially abundant this year. Birds,

too, were plentiful, but the prize among them was a nice Western Kingbird that showed off for us in the pines along the edge of the lake as long as we wanted to stay and admire his beauty. A Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hutton Vireo, and a Sora Rail all came as welcome additions to our lists at that point. Red-shafted Flickers were loudly proclaiming their presence and five of the six species of swallows were hawking about over the lake and golf course. A search for nests was maintained but was unsuccessful until late in the afternoon, when several Bush-tit and Allen Hummingbird nests were located.

Lunch was eaten on a grassy spot near the pumping station, where we were entertained by Barn and Rough-winged Swallows and where we found a Pine Siskin's nest in which the birds were apparently feeding young. From there we went directly to the spot where the Gallinules had previously been reported, but were unsuccessful in our quest for them. We were, of course, disappointed, but the other interesting things we had seen somewhat made up for it. A Turkey Vulture flew over at that point and the sixth swallow, the Tree, presented us with some excellent views.

We returned around the west side of the lake and our trudge was rewarded by excellent views of three Bitterns. One was out in plain sight but was very hard to pick out due to its excellent camouflage plumage. He refused to fly when rocks were thrown into the tules near him, but merely sneaked off into a denser stand of them. One was heard 'pumping' at the head of the north lake just as the last of the party were leaving. A fitting climax to a wonderful birding day.

A total of seventy species was seen, as follows:

Eared Grebe	Belted Kingfisher	Myrtle Warbler
Western Grebe	Red-shafted Flicker	Audubon Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Western Kingbird	Blk.-throated Gray Warbler
American Bittern	Black Phoebe	Townsend Warbler
Mallard	Western Flycatcher	Yellow-throat
Baldpate	Horned Lark	Pileolated Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Violet-green Swallow	English Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Tree Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Red-breasted Merganser	Bank Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Rough-winged Swallow	Brewer Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Barn Swallow	Purple Finch
Sparrow Hawk	Cliff Swallow	House Finch
California Quail	Barlow Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Virginia Rail	Bush-tit	Willow Goldfinch
Sora Rail	Vigors Wren	Green-backed Goldfinch
Coot	Tule Wren	S. F. Towhee
Killdeer	Western Robin	Savannah Sparrow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Hermit Thrush	Junco
Glaucous-winged Gull	Pipit	Nuttall Sparrow
Western Gull	Cedar Waxwing	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Herring Gull	Hutton Vireo	Fox Sparrow
California Gull	Lutescent Warbler	Lincoln Sparrow
Anna Hummingbird	Yellow Warbler	Song Sparrow
Allen Hummingbird		

Twenty-six members attended: Messrs. and Mesdames Andrews, Stephens; Mesdames Baer, Ruby H. Thomas; Misses Cohen, Conant, Danz, Gallagher, Giddings, Hunt, Kennedy, MacIver, Markley, McConnell, Roberts, Taylor, Werner, Yeamans; Messrs. Bolander, Power, C. R. Thomas, Webb; Masters Berliner and Kirker; with five guests: Mrs. C. R. Tillotson, Miss Phyllis Brown of the Santa Clara Audubon Society of San Jose, Messrs. McClintock, Nilan and Tillotson.

Gordon Bolander, Leader and Historian.



### Report of Field Trips for 1936

There were twelve regular Sunday trips, one Saturday afternoon trip and the annual Christmas census trip during 1936.

The trips to Lake Merritt in January, to Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County, in May, and to the University of California campus in December were taken over the same routes as in previous years.

The trip to Burlingame in February was extended to the Mountain View marshes, where we listed several species, in good numbers, not generally found on any of our other trips.

In March, due to road construction, we had to forego the Point Bonita trip and instead went to Tennessee Cove, which had always been the destination of our August trip. This was not a satisfactory change because at Tennessee Cove in March the ground was so wet from recent rains that the entire area could not be covered.

A trip to Lake Merced in April was also curtailed by road construction. However, thanks to the number of members' automobiles available, we went across the San Mateo Bridge, to the Leslie Salt Works, and to Bay Farm Island, thereby adding two new birds to the Association's life-list: Snowy Heron and Knot.

We were very much pleased to have as our guest on this trip Mr. John H. Baker of the National Association of Audubon Societies and particularly because of his presence we were also pleased to have the birds turn out in such good numbers—93 species.

The regular trip in June was taken from Ross to Lake Lagunitas, the return trip being via the Lake Fire Trail, along which in the deep, dark canyons we heard the song of the Monterey Hermit Thrush.

The Golden Gate Park trip taken in July did not as formerly include the Cliff House and Land's End. Several species are consequently missing from our records. It is hoped that next year the entire trip will be made.

In August we went to Muir Woods and Frank Valley to try out locations new to Audubon. The result was not very satisfactory, probably on account of the season; but this territory looked as if it ought to be good birding country, especially if visited in the springtime.

September and October being very good months for shore birds, we took advantage of this opportunity to observe the enormous congregation of birds to be found along the shores of Alameda. Members who attended these trips were well repaid, and those who did not missed a great sight. The shore birds comprise one of the most interesting bird families.

The November trip was taken from Ross, but instead of going on to Lake Lagunitas as we usually had done, at the top of the ridge we turned north on an easy grade and finished at Fairfax.

Lake Merced has been visited in October for seventeen years by our Association. As we had foregone this as our regular trip this year on account of the disturbed conditions there, but still wanted to continue our records at this location, a small number of members made the trip on the Saturday afternoon preceding our regular October trip. We found neither a great number of species nor of individuals there, but some birds appeared to be holding their own in spite of difficulties. Perhaps when the road building is finally finished the birds may again have a chance in this region. In fact, the Christmas census at Lake Merced was very encouraging: sixty-three species and a total of 3520 individuals being recorded.

Our complete Christmas census was most gratifying, although in many places the ground covering had been removed and consequently many of the ground-feeding birds were found in very small numbers. However, we listed eighty species, which is better than our last two years' record, although the number of individuals listed (10,698) is smaller than last year's record.

During the past year I have carefully gone over the entire record of field trips taken by our Association and after eliminating all doubtful observations find that our life-list now stands at 239 species. Snowy Heron, Gadwall, Red-bellied Hawk and Knot are new species, making a total of 161 for the year.

The Heermann Gull is missing for the first time since 1919, but, doubtless, would have been recorded if the July trip had included the Cliff House rocks, where this species is found. The Pigeon Guillemont is also missing, for the first time since 1929, also usually found on this same trip.

The Band-tailed Pigeon is absent for the first time since 1927, the Barn Owl since 1929, Horned Lark since 1919, and the Raven since 1927.

Forty-nine different members attended the field trips with a total attendance of 174; nine members attended six or more trips. Thirty-five adults and thirty-seven boy and girl scouts attended the trips as guests. Of these only two became interested enough to join our Association. The average attendance was fourteen members and seven guests. The Association needs more members to carry on its work and it is hoped that each member will do his or her part in showing visitors the birds so that they may become sufficiently interested to want to join us.

The most popular trip was to Lake Merritt in January with twenty-six members attending; the next, Saint Mary's in May with twenty-three members; and Alameda, third, in September with twenty members.

It is hoped that 1937 will find us with a regular field leader and historian. Perhaps some one will volunteer to take care of this work.

Laura A. Stephens.



### Audubon Notes

**May Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 13th, at 8 o'clock, in room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker will be Mrs. Ynes Mexia, whose subject will be "Bird Observations in Tierra del Fuego." The talk will be illustrated.



**May Field Trip** will be taken on Sunday, the 16th, to Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County. San Francisco members will take 8 a. m. Key Route Ferry and Sacramento Northern Railway train. East Bay members may take train at Fortieth Street and Shafter Avenue at 8:30 a. m. Purchase round-trip ticket to Saint Mary's; fare from San Francisco, 75c; from Oakland, 50c. Bring luncheon.



**April Meeting:** The 236th regular meeting was held on the 8th, in room

19, Ferry Building, forty-one members and guests being present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

The following new members were elected: Miss Jane Gallagher of San Francisco, Misses Emily C. Giddings and Blanche M. Yeamans of Berkeley, and Mr. John C. Augsburg of San Francisco.

The following observations were reported:

Commander Parmenter: On the Sky-line Boulevard six-tenths of a mile south of the Sharpe Park road, March 13th, an American Egret; San Mateo Bridge, March 31st, three Barrow Golden-eyes, Short-eared Owl; Salmon Creek, March 22nd, two Glaucous Gulls, immature, entirely white.

Miss Werner: San Andreas Lake road, April 6th, Pileolated Warbler and Warbling Vireo.

---

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....	1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.  
Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.